United Nations A/69/889

General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 May 2015

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 160
Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

Financing arrangements for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions considered an advance copy of the note by the Secretary-General on the financing arrangements for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 (A/69/828). During its consideration of the note, the Committee met representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 16 April 2015.

2. The Security Council, in its resolution 2164 (2014), decided, among other things, to extend the mandate of MINUSMA until 30 June 2015, within the authorized troop ceiling of 11,200 military personnel and 1,440 police personnel, and also requested the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to enable MINUSMA to reach its full operational capacity as soon as possible within the context of a new force laydown, which was critical for the Mission's operations in northern Mali, where a complex security environment with asymmetric threats existed.

II. Additional resource requirements for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

3. Taking into account the amount of $830,701,700 previously approved for MINUSMA for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 under General Assembly resolution 68/259 B, the additional amount of $80,336,300 gross in

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resource requirements, as proposed by the Secretary-General, would increase the budget for MINUSMA for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 to $911,038,000 gross. The Advisory Committee notes that, as at 17 March 2015, the cash position of the Mission was $579,300,000, covering the three-month operating cash reserve of $147,285,400, leaving $432,014,600 in remaining cash.

4. The Secretary-General states that the ability of armed extremist groups to launch operations and/or terrorist attacks against MINUSMA personnel and assets poses a continuing threat to the implementation of the mandate of the Mission. He also indicates that in July 2014 the number of attacks affecting MINUSMA was, for the first time, higher than those against Operation Barkhane, the Malian defence and security forces and other actors combined and that injuries to MINUSMA personnel caused by improvised explosive devices had quadrupled in 2014 compared with 2013 (para. 3). In that connection, the Advisory Committee was informed that MINUSMA currently had the highest average annual fatality rate of all peacekeeping missions, with 50 fatalities and 176 injuries as at 24 March 2015. **The Advisory Committee expresses deep concern at the fact that MINUSMA continues to suffer such a high number of fatalities and injuries and expects that the Secretary-General will make every effort to increase the safety and security of its military and civilian personnel (see also A/69/839/Add.2, para. 16).**

5. The proposal of the Secretary-General in the amount of $80,336,300 comprises $70,300,000 under facilities and infrastructure and $10,036,300 under other supplies, services and equipment. In that connection, the Secretary-General indicates that additional resources are needed given that, when the budget for 2014/15 was formulated, no provision was made for the new force laydown or the expansion of the presence of the Mission in the north of Mali beyond key population centres and MINUSMA cannot meet the related costs from within its existing resources (para. 5).

6. As indicated by the Secretary-General, the additional requirements under facilities and infrastructure relate to the construction of additional camps and the strengthening of existing camps in northern Mali, together with the construction of helicopter platforms. The additional requirements under other supplies, services and equipment relate to contractual arrangements with the United Nations Mine Action Service for mine detection and mine-clearing services, to be implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) (paras. 6-7). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with the following:

A. Construction projects

Camp location	*Type of construction*	*Completion as at 30 June 2015 (percentage)*	*Requested funding (United States dollars)*	*Status*
Anefis	Horizontal and transitional	33	3 960 000	Contract under final stage of negotiation
Douentza	Horizontal and transitional	60	4 920 000	Contract awarded, implementation started

Camp location	*Type of construction*	*Completion as at 30 June 2015 (percentage)*	*Requested funding (United States dollars)*	*Status*
Gossi	Horizontal and transitional	75	3 600 000	Contract awarded, implementation started
Ber/Leré/Goundam	Horizontal and transitional	60	10 166 780	Contract awarded, implementation started
Gao	Transitional	70	15 330 000	Contract awarded, implementation started
Timbuktu	Transitional	60	16 902 505	Contract awarded, implementation started
Kidal	Transitional	62.5	15 420 715	Contract awarded, implementation started
Subtotal			**70 300 000**	

B. Mine action

Equipment	*Requested funding (United States dollars)*	*Status*
Electronic countermeasures	3 200 000	Under procurement by UNOPS
Ground-penetrating radar	3 200 000	Under procurement by UNOPS
Ground alert system	2 880 000	Under procurement by UNOPS
UNOPS programme support costs	756 320	–
Subtotal	**10 036 320**	
Total	**80 336 320**	

7. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the procurement process had been expedited and that, owing to the exigency of the construction, the Mission had begun implementing contracts or letters of assist and had started construction activities. In that connection, the Committee was informed that, should no additional resources be approved for 2014/15, the Mission would be unable to meet its contractual obligations, which would result in a disruption of the payment of invoices and, therefore, a stoppage or deferment of the construction work. The Committee was also informed that non-approval would bring about a revision of the resource requirements for 2015/16, given that no budgetary provision had been made for those new projects for that period.

8. **The Advisory Committee notes that Security Council resolution 2164 (2014), in which the Council requested MINUSMA to expand its presence beyond key population centres in northern Mali, was adopted on 25 June 2014 and that the request for additional resources was made near to the end of the current financial period. The Committee also notes that, in the intervening period, MINUSMA initiated and completed the procurement process, signed contracts, obligated funds and subsequently proceeded with construction activities in that connection. While the Committee is cognizant of the challenges facing the Mission, it is of the view that MINUSMA should have presented its request for additional resources earlier, so as to avoid the risk of entering into financial commitments without available funding or spending authority.**

III. Conclusion

9. The proposed action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of MINUSMA for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 is indicated in paragraph 8 of the note by the Secretary-General.

10. **The Advisory Committee recognizes that the Mission is facing a budget shortfall and that its requirements for the current period may exceed the level of the existing appropriation. Having considered the Mission's cash position as at 17 March 2015 (see para. 3 above), and on the basis of its exchange with the representatives of the Secretary-General regarding the foreseeable cash position of the Mission until the end of the financial period, and given also the level of the proposed additional requirements as a proportion of the existing budget appropriation, the Committee is of the view that there is no need, at this stage, for an additional appropriation or assessment to meet the needs of MINUSMA for the current period. The Committee therefore recommends that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed $80,336,300 for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, in addition to the amount of $830,701,700 already appropriated for the same period for the maintenance of the Mission under the terms of Assembly resolution 68/259 B. The Secretary-General should be requested to provide detailed information on actual expenditure incurred in the context of the performance report of MINSUMA for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.**